

**General Government – Ways and Means Subcommittee Meeting
8:30 AM March 11, 2013**

Taken from OACO presentation prepared by Lucy Baker:

The individual Advocacy Commissions were established by Oregon Statute between 1983 - 1995 with the purpose to advise the Governor and legislators, improve public policy, grow leadership and increase the success of Oregon's communities of color and women with the understanding that this includes communities of the most underrepresented and underserved citizens and their children in Oregon .

The OACO supports the work of the Commissions by providing all administrative functions including budgeting and financial oversight, coordinating 70+ meetings for the Commissions biennially, arranging speakers, taking minutes, preparing reports and media releases, building partner relationships, supervising interns, providing information and referrals for members of the public, elected officials and partners, legislative tracking, planning and coordinating events with partners, managing distribution lists, maintaining and updating Commission websites, coordinating training and orientation, supporting Commission fundraising, and responding to the individual requests of Commissioners.

Requested statement to be included in Oregon Public Record at March 11, 2013 General Government Subcommittee Meeting of Ways and Means Committee.

It is formally and urgently requested that Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office should NOT be funded for the next biennium.

It is formally and urgently requested that the four (4) Commissions (Oregon Commission for Women, Oregon Black Affairs Commission, Oregon Hispanic Affairs Commission and Commission for Asians and Pacific Islanders) should NOT be funded for the next biennium.

The original intent and emphasis when these commissions and OACO were formed is not being fulfilled and in fact have been convoluted to fit the needs and wishes of the Chairs and Vice Chairs. Since I served as Commissioner on the Oregon Commission for Women from 2010 to 2011, I have first hand knowledge of this information. Therefore, I will address irregularities within OACO and OCFW.

- Oregon Commission for Women Irregularities**
- Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office Irregularities**
- Budget**
- Meeting Minutes**
- Lack of Transparency and Outreach**
- Lack of Completion of Projects or Partial Completion**
- Loss of Contacts and Outreach to Oregon Communities**
- OACO Administration**

OCFW IRREGULARITIES

In early 2011 Susan Castner, former Chair of OCFW, resigned, Chair Sunny Pettit and Vice Chair Jenny Greenleaf took control of OCFW.

Immediately, they formulated ways to spend OCFW budget funds and fundraised funds in the Friends of OCFW account (\$20,000). Vice Chair Jenny Greenleaf pushed to change the OCFW email server to EMMA (which is

operated by her friends). She also pushed for a friend, Lee Hamilton , as facilitator for OCFW. Originally, Lee Hamilton indicated she would facilitate for the sum of \$300. However, when Vice Chair Greenleaf mentioned this (without documentation or explanation) to OCFW, the cost increased to \$1,200. There was no vote taken within OCFW for either of these expenditures. I questioned Vice Chair Greenleaf about both of these expenditures and her connection to the providers. I was rebuffed and received biting and curt responses from Vice Chair Greenleaf.

OCFW mission statement and bylaws have been totally reworked by former OCFW Chair Petit, Vice Chair Greenleaf and Commissioner Jacquot to match decisions and actions they already had taken.

No fundraising efforts have been undertaken by OCFW/OACO since 2010. It appears that fundraising should be an important part of the efforts of OCFW and has been strongly urged by prior legislatures. Since early 2011 no fundraising efforts have been undertaken by OCFW or OACO. However, \$5,000 has been taken from Friends of OCFW (fundraised non-profit) account on two occasions. One \$5,000 check was given to friend and Portland State University co-worker (Nova Sommer) of former OCFW Chair Sunny Petit. This was part of a Woman's Suffrage project where \$4,000 was spent on wages and \$1,000 spent on travel expenditures. Last information was that 158 public persons were informed about Women's Suffrage at the expense of \$5,000.

The website could have been set up by volunteers or Oregon Women's History Consortium. The Women's Suffrage traveling exhibit did not provide the exposure needed and was certainly a poor investment of taxpayer monies the tune of \$5,000.

An additional check for \$5,000 was written to former OCFW Chair Sunny Petit's employer (Portland State University Center for Women's Politics and Policy) for a poster project. It was indicated that recipients of the posters needed to fill out an application and pay for the posters on line. What was the \$5,000 used for?

OCFW and OACO members view Friends of OCFW fundraised non-profit account as their private checking account to be utilized as they wish. But they did not put any effort into working on fundraising events to accumulate money for that account. They indicated they had no concern or would not expend any efforts toward fundraising.

OACO IRREGULARITIES

Budget:

Early 2011 I requested copies of OCFW and OACO budget information and expenditures; it came to my attention that OACO Administrator, Lucy Baker, had transferred \$1,200 from OCFW budget fund to the OACO budget General fund. Lucy Baker also transferred \$300 from OBAC budget fund to the OACO budget General fund. Neither of these transfers was presented to the Commissions before the action, and neither of these transfers was voted on prior to their transfer to OACO budget General fund.

Lucy Baker requested \$1,000 check from the Friends of OCFW; she indicated that OCFW budget fund was short \$1,000. The Board of Friends of OCFW (early 2011) asked Lucy Baker why she needed a check for \$1,000 and why the OCFW budget fund was short \$1,000. Lucy Baker did not provide adequate explanations for either question.

When I questioned Lucy Baker regarding these unauthorized funds transfers, she became agitated and stumbled with her words with no adequate explanations. Weeks later after further questioning Lucy Baker regarding these unauthorized funds transfers, she stumbled through an explanation that these were “errors”.

I continued to request copies of OACO and OCFW budget information and expenditures; however, after much stalling Lucy indicated they were too difficult to get. (It has been reported that DAS sends these reports to Lucy Baker on a monthly basis.) I never did receive any other OACO and OCFW budget reports. Other commissioners indicated they had the same experience when they requested OACO and OCFW budget reports.

When Lucy Baker made financial reports and updates, there were many questions to be answered. However, she would not provide any explanations. She only presented her slant on the information.

MEETING MINUTES:

I requested that we receive meeting minutes within two weeks after a meeting instead of at the next meeting as we walk through the door. OCFW commissioners were asked to approve the meeting minutes from a prior meeting at the current meeting. There wasn't sufficient time to adequately read, review and digest the meeting minutes before Lucy Baker (or OCFW Chair) requested approval of the prior meeting minutes.

Prior OCFW meeting minutes have not been posted to OCFW website in a timely manner. Months went by without posting of meeting minutes. Commissions' websites were not updated on a regular basis. Taxpayers have the right to know what goes on in the Commissions meetings. Meeting minutes and updates to Commissions websites are a couple of avenues to transparency.

However, OACO website was upgraded and updated regularly.

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND OUTREACH:

Prior to former OCFW Chair Petit and Vice Chair Greenleaf coming into office, State of Oregon funded toll free telephone call in number was provided on all OCFW (and the other 3 commissions) Public Meeting notices. That provided an opportunity for any taxpayer in Oregon no matter where they reside to have access to Oregon Public Commission Meetings. Many taxpayers who live in Southern Oregon, Eastern Oregon or the Coast cannot attend the Commission meetings in person. However, with a toll free telephone call in number, they can access the meetings.

Since 2012 NO toll free telephone call in number has been provided on the Commissions (individual or joint) Public Meeting notices. It is another way to block public viewing of the commissions meetings. It provides a shroud of

secrecy for actions of the OACO Administrator, Lucy Baker, and the Chairs/Vice Chairs of the Commissions and the new Friends of OCFW Board.

Taxpayer funds are provided for the budgets of OACO and the four commissions. Taxpayers have the right to know!

LACK OF COMPLETION OF PROJECTS OR PARTIAL COMPLETION:

One example of this is the OCFW Women's Resource List which should have been completed in 2011, but was partially completed in 2012. The OCFW Women's Resource List should provide contact numbers for women in any geographic area of the state to call in cases of emergency or need for assistance with housing, food, child care, legal proceedings, protection, etc. The OCFW list generated in 2012 provides only Portland centric contact telephone numbers. It does not provide contact telephone numbers for other parts of the state.

I suggested this contact list with all Oregon counties outlined on a map. When a person clicked on their county, a total contact list for that county would pop up. Instead Lucy Baker and OCFW Chair Petit and Vice Chair Greenleaf elected to do an abbreviated version with only Portland centric contact telephone numbers. This was done after I left OCFW.

OCFW has had difficulty having a quorum of commissioners at meetings. Many are commissioners in name only and rarely attend meetings. Many do not do any projects or actual work on behalf of the Oregon Commission for Women or the women of Oregon.

LOSS OF CONTACTS AND OUTREACH TO OREGON COMMUNITIES:

Part of OACO Administrator, Lucy Baker, job description indicates SUPPORT for all four commissions. This includes fundraising, financial reporting, basic administrative support and general cooperativeness. She has not participated or assisted in any fundraising activities. She has not provided basic administrative support to commissioners who requested she make telephone calls or write letters. She has not maintained the commissions email contact lists or their websites. She has not provided up to date financial information

regarding commissions or OACO budgets and expenditures. She has not provided commissions meeting minutes in a timely manner.

Lucy Baker has made decisions and taken actions which were not brought before the commissions for review or approval.

Lucy Baker has been evasive, stalling and confrontational with commissioners who asked for these and other appropriate services.

Lucy Baker has changed the focus of her job description to fit her aspirations. She has also changed her evaluation form to reflect her interests and strong points. She has not had regular evaluations as outlined when she was hired.

Lucy Baker has taken advantage of the fact that she has no direct supervisor or overview of her actions.

SYNOPSIS:

OCFW and OACO have piggy backed on other organizations efforts and accomplishments (Friends of OCFW – prior fundraising funds, Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness, EMERGE Oregon, etc.). They have not spent much effort in fulfilling the ORS mandate for OCFW and in fact have changed it to diminish the overall work of OCFW.

Work of the commissions could be accomplished by non-profits, college appointed interns, volunteers and other non State of Oregon funded entities.

Therefore, I request that all four commissions and OACO NOT be funded for the next biennium.

Respectfully submitted,

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